[Translation]

Development Fund

*73. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated a proposal to set up a development fund for tourism to finance infrastructure projects undertaken by State Governments and NGOs at various travel destinations throughout the country;

(b) the sources of funding for the above; and

(c) the scope of utilisation and possible terms relating to interest rate, repayment period, etc. of projects assisted by the proposed funds?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The details have not been finalised.

[English]

Water Logging in Irrigated Areas

*74. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suitable technology has been developed to tide over the problem of water logging in canal irrigated areas;

(b) if so, the extent upto which this technology is being utilised; and

(c) the area in the country under water logging five years back and at present, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Yes, Sir. To tackle problem of water logging in canal irrigated areas both preventive and reclamative technology packages have been developed.

(b) Different techniques are being used in different States according to their circumstances.

(c) The waterlogged Area in canal commands in 1991 and at present is as follows:

Year	Waterlogged Area in lakh hectare	Remarks
1991	24.60	
1995-96	10.00	Only the States of Karnataka, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab have made the assessment recently. Other States have not made assessments till now.

[Translation]

National Highways

*75. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether many National Highways in the country and particularly Highway Nos. 30 and 31 in Bihar are in a dilapidated condition;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reasons for not starting work despite the approval of 'Estimates' for the doubling and strengthening of the above mentioned two Highways in Bihar; and

(d) the steps being taken to keep the National Highways in good conditions?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) All National Highways in the country including National Highway-30 and National Highway-31 in Bihar are generally being maintained in traffic worthy condition. Their maintenance is a continuous process and repairs as warranted are attended to from time to time. Due to incessant heavy rains in Bihar since end of June, 1997, pot holes have developed in some stretches of these two National Highways in Bihar and repairs of these are being attended to on emergent basis.

(c) Only one work namely "widening to 4-lanes in Km. 227 and Km. 228 (500 M) on NH-31" sanctioned under Job No. 031-BR-96-341 dated 31.10.1996 has not commenced so far due to delay in award of work caused due to representations during tender process.

(d) Improvement to National Highways is taken in phases through plan allocation and maintenance in general through non-plan allocation to the extent possible within available resources. Steps have also been taken for encouraging private sector participation for development works on NHs.

Production of Petroleum and Natural Gas

*76. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the production of petroleum and natural gas in the country during 1995-96 and 1996-97, institution-wise;

(b) the number of places where exploration and drilling work has been undertaken for extraction of petroleum and natural gas during the aforesaid period;

(c) the number of places where petroleum and natural gas has been struck;

(d) the details of profit and loss of the said institutions during 1995-96 and 1996-97, institution-wise; and

(e) the specific measures being taken by the Government to adequately fulfil the requirement of petroleum and natural gas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The details of the production of Petroleum and Natural Gas in the country during 1995-96 and 1996-97 was as under:—

Production of Crude Oil

(figures in million metric tonnes)

	ONGC	OIL	JV#	TOTAL
1995-96	31.635	2.882	.63	35.147
1996-97	28.671	2.87	1.34	32.881*

#Joint Venture
*Provisional

Production of Natural gas

(figs. in million cubic metres)

	ONGC	OIL	JV#	TOTAL
1995-96	20875	1432	332	22639
1996-97	21278	1467	509	23254*

#Joint Venture
*Provisional

(b) and (c) During the last two years. ONGC and OIL have carried out exploration works in the offshore and onland basins of Bombay, Kerala-Konkan. Krishna-Godavari, Cambay, Saurashtra and Cauvery, Assam Arakan fold belt, Himalayan foothills, Ganga Valley and in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. These exploration efforts have resulted in oil and gas discoveries at 32 places.

(d) The net profits after tax of ONGC/OIL was as under:

(figs. in crores)

	1995-96	1996-97
ONGC	1945.43	2030.65
OIL	206.46	220.14

(e) The measures being taken by the Government to meet the demand of oil and gas in the country are:

(i) Implementation of new developmental schemes of oil/gas and additional development of the existing fields.

(ii) Announcement of a New Exploration Licensing Policy to encourage investment in exploration of hydrocarbons.

(iii) Encouraging the participation of private/Joint Venture Companies in oil/gas exploration and development.

(iv) Intensification of exploration efforts in the proven basins as well as in the new areas and its expansion to the deep water and frontier areas.

(v) Adoption of specialised technology to improve the recovery factors.

(vi) Formation of a new Company jointly by GAIL, IOC, ONGC and BPCL for the import of liquified natural gas (LNG).

(vii) The gap between the demand and supply of petroleum is to be met through imports.

Note:

ONGC — Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited.
OIL — Oil India Limited.
GAIL — Gas Authority of India Limited.
IOC — Indian Oil Corporation Limited.
BPCL — Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited.

[English]

Invalid Photo Identity Cards

*77. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :
SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major lapse threatening the IGI Airport security has been recently detected in using the Photo Identity Cards by employees of a number of invalid agencies working at the airport;